



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol Vol. 2, Issue 4 | February 21, 2012

Hearings on Bills to Create a Common General Education Core & Prohibition of Colleges Forcing Students to Enroll in Remediation Courses

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee held two public hearings on February 14 and 16 on two important bills: HB5030, [AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERAL EDUCATION CORE OF COURSES](#) and SB40, [AN ACT CONCERNING OPEN ACCESS TO COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES](#).

Six CSU-AAUP members testified on HB5030 and a few others submitted electronic testimony. All the testimony from the hearing can be viewed [here](#).

Five CSU-AAUP members testified on SB40. Testimony is not available yet from that hearing, but video of the hearing can be accessed through [CT-N On Demand](#).

Bills Filed: Week of 2/13

The following list of bills have been identified by our lobbying firm, [Betty Gallo & Co](#), as having a potential impact on our members if passed. CSU-AAUP and our lobbying firm will follow the progress of the bills throughout the session and alert our members if action is needed.

HB 5059: [AN ACT AMENDING THE EDUCATION COST SHARING FORMULA TO A MONEY FOLLOWS THE CHILD APPROACH](#)

Statement of Purpose: To establish a money follows the child approach to state education grant funding.

HB 5044: [AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION BENEFIT PLAN FOR UNCLASSIFIED STATE EMPLOYEES](#)

Statement of Purpose: To help save the state money by shifting certain state employees to a different benefit plan.

HB 5060: [AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

Statement of Purpose: To encourage businesses to create scholarships for Connecticut students attending Connecticut public colleges.

"I support or oppose one of these bills; what should I do?"

1. Write to your legislators! Find them [here](#).
2. [Track](#) the bill so you know when public hearings are scheduled.

Bills Continued

HB 5061: *AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION FEE WAIVERS FOR VETERANS TAKING SUMMER AND INTERSESSION CLASSES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION*

Statement of Purpose: To include coverage of tuition fees for summer and intersession classes in veterans' tuition waivers.

SB 52: *AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEE PENSION REFORM*

Statement of Purpose: To save the state money and reduce the state's long-term liabilities by enacting comprehensive pension reform.

HB 5077: *AN ACT CONCERNING FULL STATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS*

Statement of Purpose: To reduce towns' property tax burden by providing for one hundred per cent state funding of special education costs.

HB 5078: *AN ACT LOWERING THE EXCESS COST THRESHOLD FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS*

Statement of Purpose: To reduce the local tax burden by requiring the state to pay more for special education by lowering the excess cost threshold.

SB 154: *AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES AND VIOLENCE AND ABUSIVE CONDUCT IN THE WORKPLACE*

Statement of Purpose: To require the Department of Administrative Services to report the number of complaints of abusive conduct in the workplace between state employees to the General Assembly.

SB 108: *AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD TASK FORCE*

Statement of Purpose: To establish a task force to make recommendations for the creation of an educator professional standards board.

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the [Office of Legislative Research](#):

1. OLR Backgrounder: The 2011 SEBAC Agreement
2. Education Cost Sharing Formula
3. Use of Restraint and Seclusion in Connecticut Public Schools

Have a question? Get the answer!
Call (860) 832-3790 or email us at AaupDistList@ccsu.edu